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PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK
BY

"TAKE OFF"

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR
FORCE

"SOMEWHERE ON THE PACIFIC COAST"



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10th APRIL 1944

No. 30



COLOUR

"TAKE OFF" is a weekly journal published every Monday by the Royal Canadian Air Force, "Somewhere on the West Coast" by permission of the Commanding Officer, Group Captain R.H. Foss.

Managing Editor F/O R.K. Remmer

Editorial Staff

Sgt. L.J. Costley Mr. J. Deildal
Cpl. J.J. Kelly LAC V. Chamberlin
LAW A.J. Epps LAC H.L. Disbrow

Cartoons and Decorations

Sgt. W.A. Lang
Feature Writer
Sgt. H.A. Peacock

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PADRE'S PATTERN

Had we never heard anything about the life of Jesus and then to sit down and read it through for the first time, there is no doubt but that a great impression would be made upon us. His birth, life and death would thrill us, as does the biography of no other. The beauty of his life and the calmness and courage of his death would hold a spellbound.

But what would impress us more than anything else is that part of the story of that first Easter morning when his disciples realized He was not dead but alive and went out with renewed spirit to carry on the work Jesus had left for them.

If we ask "How did it happen?" we shall find no satisfactory answer at all. The Gospel story is not complete. Only this one truth stands out, all of them believed staunchly. This fact is substantiated by the growth of Christianity which can be explained in no other way. But let us ask rather this question, "Why did it happen?" We will find an abundance of answers.

First, Jesus rose from the dead that He might give us a living hope that this is not the end of life. This thought enables us to face the sorrows, tragedies and bereavements of these days. Think of the untold suffering in this world, and ask yourself what real consolation is there to aching and broken hearts, from the hope that this is not the end.

Secondly He, through the Resurrection, gives us the vital hope that right will triumph over wrong. These are days when we may sometimes doubt it, but ever behind in the dim unknown is God keeping watch and guiding the world to a new a nobler day. Never forget that the grimness and tragedy of Good Friday and Calvary was followed by Easter Day.

Finally He has given us the hope that we can have mastery over ourselves, with

His help and spirit. All of us realized that there is much we do we had better have left undone and much we do not do, we ought to do. We do not always understand why we act thus, but the day we realize our weakness and turn to God, we are helped and inspired by the same power that brought Jesus from the grave.

With the message of Easter ringing in our ears, what meaning has evil, failure, tragedy, death for us! To all who believe life is victory!

REHABILITATION

Summing up the general opinion of servicemen on rehabilitation would seem to indicate that many view the post war world with considerable apprehension and misgiving. And, while most are quite outspoken in voicing their dislike of the regimentation that is such a necessary part of service life, they nevertheless feel that unless the Government retains a goodly hold on the directing reins for some years after the war the future of many servicemen is apt to prove both disappointing and disastrous.

There are numerous ideas on what the servicemen would like, but eventually all ideas seem to boil down to this conclusion.

The servicemen want a social system wherein they can be definitely assured of a decent standard of living for both themselves and families; a standard in which they would not only be able to afford a fair share of the necessities and comforts which a modern world offers, but also a moderate and healthful amount of recreation; protection against the ravages of unexpected sickness; the possibility of giving their children a good education and opportunity in life; and, last but not least, assurance of reasonable independence in old age.

Many would like to see free medical services instituted. Unexpected sickness and expensive medical care is a grim spectre that haunts many from the first day they assume their position as an adult and responsible citizen of our country. They ask: why can't the average wage-earner be free to face the future without unnecessary worry caused by the dark shadow of expensive operations and medical care? In war a soldier's good health is considered one of the first essentials so he can give his best for his country. Then why, ask the servicemen, can't the same system be established in peace to enable one to function at his best as a citizen of the country he fought for?

Another point is that unlimited education should be available to all who merit it. Many believe the present set-up limits a child's education by his parents financial status, tending to segregate the people into definite categories for generations, not because the children of some categories haven't any inherent talents, but merely because they never get a chance to develop them beyond a certain degree.

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STORES DAILY DIARY

We had the best yarn of the season written, and ready for the press. It concerned the Mighty Atom of the Stores. However we had to kill the copy, as we are not in a position to take on a libel suit, we will leave that to Walter Winchell. However we want the Atom to realize that our Take Off reporter hears all, sees all and then stretches the story to the limit.

The Equipment Section has been bolstered by the addition of a couple of Ex-Rupertites by name of Forrest and MacKay. They were turned over to the tender (?) care of Sgt. Bolter. The boys welcomed them with open arms — the reason being that a new list of Duty Storekeepers was in the making.

FLASH — Kay Taylor of the Stores Orderly Room has gone all out for softball, now that she has a bit of time to spare. However being an old (?) cricket player, she finds the game amusing but confusing (Lil Abner). When interviewed by our writer she states (quote) 'They told me to steal a base, but I refused, I didn't want to spoil the game by running off with the jolly base marker' (unquote).

Stores business not — Dow Jones averages shows a big increase in customers at Teck, during the hours 1000 to 1030 and 1500 to 1530. We didn't think we had so many friends BUT we sigh to heck they would assist in the fatigues.

MAX MEDVIN'S SCHEME FOR BROKEN DOWN AIRMEN

Rehabilitation is a pertinent question of the day, not to be undone, the Equipment Section have their own plan. "The Max Medvin Scheme for broken down Airmen". The wacky E.A. upon discharge is allotted a corner of his own choice, plus proper equipment for his livelihood as listed in the scale below.

SCALE P.Q. 014 GAP 00

AC's	4B/17	Cups pencil holding	ea 1
	66S/00	Pencils, assorted	ea 6
	66S/NIV	cards (Bait Only — "Don't be a cheapkate and take a pencil"	ea 1

Opls.	Scale as above plus	22B/100956	
		Laces boot	ea 6

Sgts. & Above — Scale as above except that the bottom is cut out of 4B/17 as nobody cares about Senior H.C.O.'s (so it would seem)

This cup is a peachy little item having a hook attached. This enables the owner to attach it to a button hole (he won't have any buttons on his coat by this time). He will then be able to keep his hands in his pockets to keep them warm — gloves cost money.

The rush for allotments has already started, corners already spoken for are:

7/S Mifsud — back of the Ieric Theatre — so

he can hear the Barber of Seville buckshee.

Sgt. Tyler — Poker Joes shooting gallery.

Sgt. Bolter — Graycourt Hotel (he had nothing to do with the affair in room 109).

Opl. Nott — Anywhere on Columbia St., New Westminster.

Opl. Cole — Shaughnessy Hospital.

Opl. Audette — Maternity Pavilion — Vancouver General Hospital.

Opl. Hooper — Nearest the Castle Hotel.

LAC Wade — Govt. Motor Vehicle Bureau.

LAC Kabatow — Shell Oil Co.

LAC V. Chamberlin — Acme Junk Co. Corner

LAC C. Schnell — Broadway Auto Wreckers

LAC Harris — Hornby Street Govt. Dairy

LAC Medvin — Rent Control Board

LAC G. Chamberlain — Patullo Bridge.

There are a few choice corners left, if interested see LAC Medvin (phone local 18).

STATION DANCE

In reporting on the coming dance may we say that we guarantee a super-time.

We think we're safe in saying that you'll have just as good a time as had by all at the last Airmen's Dance and even a better time.

We have contacted Marie Abrams and her top-notch band again and from that angle the dance will be tops.

Hostesses from Ladner, Essondale & Vancouver will be in attendance besides our own lovely #5 C.T.U. W.D.'s.

We want to welcome all the new W.D.'s to our dances.

The admission will be .25¢ to all airmen and .50¢ to our Sr. H.C.O.'s and Officers. We welcome all our H.C.O.'s and Officers.

Refreshments will be served in the Airmen's Mess for all at the intermission.

We welcome all personnel to be in attendance at 18.30 hours in the Rec. Hall on April 12th, 1944.

SEE YOU THERE? O.K.

STATION LIBRARY

Don't all rush over at once, but at last we have a copy of "For Whom the Bells Toll". Many of you will be pleased to hear too, that we have another book in the Claudis series. This book, which is the middle one of the three we have now, takes the delightful young Naughtons and Little Bobby on a second honeymoon. It has all the cast of the other two books and lacks none of their sparkle and humour.

Other new books this week are "My Friend Flicka", no doubt familiar to most of you as a show; "A Bell for Adano" a novel by a young war correspondent about Americans in Italy. Though Fiction, it is based on the truth and could only have been written by one who had first hand knowledge and a real understanding of the facts upon

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APRIL 12TH

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STATION DANCE

APRIL 12TH

STATION LIBRARY (Cont. from Page 4)

which this novel is based.

Another is "The Lord is a Man of War". It is the story of a young Czech refugee who gives up his job, the girl he loves, in order that he might return to Europe to revenge himself for his father's death which he met before the face of a firing squad. It is a story of amazing adventures, written in a forceful style that holds your interest from start to finish.

For those of you who are new on the station we might mention again that we get four newspapers, two from Vancouver, as well as the Standard and the Toronto Daily Star. We have quite a number of magazines coming in regularly too, "Life", "Readers Digest", "Macleans", "Colliers", "Mademoiselle" and others.

FIRE HALL NEWS

At last the boys of this Section got the action they had been waiting for so patiently - meaning, of course, the Ladner High School Fire. Commenting on the work of the boys, F/Sgt. Curtiss, our genial Fire Chief, says "It was just a good work out for my men. They did all the things they were suppose to do, and, withal, a d--- good job."

Your reporter was off duty at the time taking in the bright lights, and so missed out on this little bit of excitement. Why do all the fires occur when I am not around?

LAC [Name] will be getting out signs any time now. He is father again to a boy. Congratulations, fellow, Mother and baby doing fine....

LAC "Red" Morrison let us down in the fights at Sea Island. Better luck next time, old man - it was a good try anyway.

We still have no dope on our mystery man LAC Hadley. Maybe we could hire a private detective to shadow him.

Are there any cribbage players around camp? We'll take on all comers.... after duty hours only, of course.

Easter Greetings to the whole station from the Fire Eaters.

NEWS AND VIEWS

No doubt the station wonders just what the gen is on some of these committee meetings that occur at odd times and out of the way places.

One balmy Spring afternoon last week the Centeen Committe met in the beautiful decorated lounge in the Rec Hall. (a wistful sigh from W.D.'s).

Draped comfortably over the furniture, the future of the Centeens were discussed and several items of interest arose.

Beer, the drink of all Airmen, will be slightly higher in price. Some things you might not care to drink, but are just as necessary, will not be quite so expensive.

Some airmen would like washing machines;

It appears that their neighbours are criticising the colour of their was - (CATS) Tattle Steel Grey isn't allowed, they say. Hence the machines. Would a washboard help until they arrive?

The next "Take Off" should be very interesting if W&B present the W.D.'s with an outdoor clothesline.

The meeting adjourned to inspect the stock in F/O Weir's Kitchen. P.S. Committee was very pleased with the coffee. Mr. Weir is just the best cook ever.

Its just a suggestion, of course, but would some of the newer airmen care to have a Powder Room built on the front of the Airmen's Mess? It would save them coming their glossy locks all the way to the steam table.

TOWER CHATTER

The weeks are slipping quickly by and its time for us to get in our two cent's worth again.

You may have noticed the woe-begone expression on the faces of some of us these last few days. This can be explained by the fact that fate and DAPS have been playing havoc with our W.D.'s. We are keeping our fingers crossed in the hope that the same fate may see fit to return at least some of them to Boundary. In the meantime we wish to welcome our new Control Officer, Flight Lieutenant Fox, and our Airdrome Control Quintuplets LAC's Cooper, Wilson, Garcia, and AC's Zutz and Wittwer. May their stay with us be long and happy.

If you are wondering why Sgt. Coghill wears such a contented expression since his return from his well deserved holiday you may chalk it down to the effect of the California sunshine. Which reminds us of the Met Section, which reminds us we heard one of them say not long ago that he couldn't give us the weather forecast as he hadn't seen the paper that day. (They'll kill us for that)

Here is an amusing write up of a wedding we came across. If it's old to you - keep us happy and don't tell us so.

THE MODEST BRIDEGROOM

As everyone know, the bridegroom is just an necessary adjunct to the marriage ceremony it is the bride who always holds the centre of the picture. So in order to give the male a little more prominence I thought the following method of writing wedding accounts might be a good idea:

"Mr. Jones was attended by Mr. Roberts as groomsman. As the groom approached the alter he was the cynosure of all eyes. He was charmingly clad in a three pieced suit, consisting of a coat, vest and trousers. The coat of dark material was carefully draped from the shoulders and tastefully gathered under the arms. A pretty story was current among the Old Timers presents that it was the same coat worn by his father and grandfather on their wedding days.

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The Modest Bridegroom (Cont'd from Page 6)

The vest was sleeveless and met in the front. It was gracefully fashioned with four pockets and held together in the back with a small strap and buckle.

Conspicuous on the front of the vest was a fine gold chain suspending a large gold watch, the bride's gift to the groom. This gave the needed touch of brilliance to a costume of perfect taste and harmony. Below the vest about two inches of perfectly white linen were visible.

The groom's trousers were suspended at the waist by a genuine leather belt with a monogrammed buckle, falling in a straight line almost to the floor. The severe simplicity of the garment was relieved by the right pantalet which was caught up about four inches revealing just the artistic glimpse of brown hole-proof hosiery, above the genuine leather shoes, laced with strings of the same color. The effect was rather chic.

His neck was encircled with a collar around which a cravate was loosely knotted so that it rode up under his left ear, with that studied carelessness that marks the supreme artistry in dress.

Mr. Robert's costume was essentially like that of the groom, and a hush of admiration enveloped the audience at the complete and wonderful harmony of the regiment.

As Miss Adams led her groom from the nuptials, it was noted that she wore the conventional veil and orange blossoms.

W.D. COLONY

Maybe this week we have found something exciting for Sgt. Costley. Our Cpl. Weber as a softball player makes a very good swimmer, but we think she prefers swimming. The baseball field behind the W.D. Barracks is still pretty damp and she really went to town on the Swan Dive (she is pretty good at the racing five too). How is the wading Corporal? We hope the water is getting warm by now.

We see some of the Squadron boys down from Tofino, Funny, when they were here we didn't know that they were so fond of the station. Maybe one day all the W.D.'s will pay a return visit to Tofino. (When the War is over).

Barbara B. is up bright and early these mornings to have breakfast with that 9 ONU fellow. She claims he is an outdoor man and used to get up and wander around the cow-barn before breakfast - before he was drafted. Now he gets up and wanders around the Mess Hall. Please Barbara, don't turn on the lights when you get up at 5 o'clock. We are allergic to bright lights at that hour.

I bet the boys' Corporals don't go around and kiss the boys good-night. Our Corporal does. Really boys you'd love it. She calls us too if she thinks we have been holding up the garbage cans long enough. You

think some people could be so conscientious about their work ---but our Corporal is.

Some of the girls are working hard to make the coming Amateur night a real success. We would like everyone to cooperate and help out as much as possible.

KEN anyone tell us why Badminton is so interesting these days? There must be a RIZL attraction at the Rec Hall.



LAC Radcliff and Cpl. Kelly were on Commandos this past week - "What a game!"

We wonder if Cpl. Fott will soon smarten up or does he intent to bring his own lunch.

We wonder if Bear Trap Goldsmit will be going back to Westminster when his back is better.

Well boys, we are going to lose F/S Garlick. He is going back to Pat Bay and we certainly are going to miss him. There is not one ooor or anyone else can say he won't be missed. He would do anyone on the station a favor and we hope our new Flight will be as well thought of as Flight Garlick. Good-bye old pal, and we will all shake your plaster cast before you go. Best wishes.

Is it right that Cpl. Buck Rogers entices young W.D.s into the Beverage Rooms.

We wonder who the airman is that is bringing glowers to Cpl. Blake.

Our W.D. cooks are doing a fine job - bless 'em. They carry all our heavy pots and sacks of vegetable for us, so we can't stop from loving them even though they do get all black from carrying our coal for the cook stoves.

Cpl. Terry's girl friend has some girl friends where she works that think she and Cpl. Terry are married - but some of us are thinking that also!!!!!!

The Wily West

We like the story about the woman who wrote from a lonely western rural spot. She wrote: "My sister and I ain't really lonely out here. We got each other to speak to, but we need another woman to talk about."



"HQ" FOR HOMER

Sgt. Gibbons visited us last week and we think he carried a little article for the "Take Off" from the W.M.N.'s at Tofino. If any copies find their way up there - "Hi, characters from da boys here!"

Speaking of things here, you would certainly be surprised at the change this station has undergone. This noon, for instance, there was a lineup at the Airmen's Mess from the knives and forks to the corner where the main drag and the Canteen road intersect. Do we hear Peter J. Verbeke saying, "They should smarten up?" We used to admire Pete for good sound beefing.

And not only that, fellows, but the heretofore pleasant act of purchasing a chocolate milk shake with two doughnuts and a piece of lemon pie a la mode (tastes better without the ice cream but it doesn't cost any more a la mode so what the hell) has changed into a tiring wait while the six people in front of you order four milk shakes apiece from the hard working man in charge of the two mixer uppers. The fellow in there tonight was certainly taking a beating and we imagine that he was wishing, even more fervently than we, that the rumoured alterations in the canteen were completed. We hear that a long bar is proposed to replace the present cubbyhole system. We can see Bill Ford and "Fergie" stopping up to said bar and ordering "Rum and Coke please, and would you kindly clean up under the table where our friend Nick is? We hate to see it messy where he's sleeping for the night." Of course, we're kidding, Nick.

Yes it has changed, men. But rest easy because we still have the same familiar screwballs around the section and several new chaps who are settling down to insanity very nicely.

"Slim" Somerville has been gnashing his teeth lately due to enforced first aid lectures, and he got a new pair of pants last week too, fellows, so we can all go out together when you come down. Let's make soon.

We have been working so hard this week that we haven't had much time to notice each others' eccentricities and corny jokes without further "lieu then - out!"

"Fortunat"

BULLETS from Armament

We wouldn't like to say definitely that our ARMAMENT OFFICER problems are over at last. Station Armament Officers on this station have arrived and departed in such a gala, but short-lived panorama, that we have gradually despair of any permanency amongst them. In any case, F/L Doran, formerly at Pat Bay, recently of Terrace, B.C., has arrived out of the blue to assume the duties of Station Armament Officer. We welcome him as our new boss and sincerely hope his stay will be lengthy.

LAC MacMcLaughlin and LAC Pat Paterson spent last 48 in Bellingham Wash. WOW! nice people these Americans. So LAC MacLaughlin thinks since he met a certain Bellingham Miss who got him out of bed at 0900 hrs. on Sunday morning to attend Church. Mac has been in a daze since he returned. One look at Mac and the boys do not wonder if she is as beautiful as Mac says - and her name is Wella.

And then there is the business of that 1930 Studebaker that was recently raffled on the station. You all know by now, surely that it was won by a ticket held by Armourer, LAC Sergeant - and his four cronies: Leard, Miller, Lloyd and Elliot. That's right, they all chipped in a dime apiece and bought a ticket and won the car. The day following the draw they were arguing for hours in the Section about what to do with it (they definitely had a problem). Feeling certain the new Armament Officer might find objection to the ceaseless arguing and rumpus - it being his first day on the job - I explained the circumstances to him. He could not but turn a sympathetic deaf ear to the din.

Before leaving you for the present, there is a certain name that has a familiar ring. It is the name of one LAC MacLaughlin. Your Scribe wonders what this Armourer LAC MacLaughlin has, not only does he burn the torch for Wella BUT also for a certain Divvy Waitress in the Sgt.'s Mess. You can't burn the torch at both ends Mac.

Patience, dear Readers, our regular reporter, Loree, will be back from Suffield next week - to bring you BULLETS, as it should be brought, from his masterful pen. In anticipation than - Adoo!!!

EASTER SERVICE

Our station Padre, F/L I.M. McKay held a special Easter Church Service on Sunday, April 9, in the Rec Hall. Over two hundred Officers, airmen and airwomen attended this very impressive service. The altar, pulpit and communion table were most attractively decorated with daffodils, calla lilies and spring blossoms. The arrangement of the flowers was by Cpl. MacKenzie, Hobson and LAC Rosner. In addition to the special Easter Hymns there was a solo by AMI Lee and a duet by AMI Lee and LAM Logan. Both girls have fine voices and we are anticipating hearing them again at future services.

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